The people in the mofussil parts were the most affected by the prevailing economic depression. Facilities should be afforded for the issue of larger loans to such people.

Lastly, the pay of officers drawing Rs. 100 and above should be reduced by at least 25 per cent. The member hoped that the higher officers would allow a voluntary cut in their salaries and that the Dewan would set the example.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Most of your suggestions, Mr. Kesava Pillai, have been made by the previous speakers.

The question of granting remission to Excise contractors is being considered.

I doubt whether your suggestions, about suspending the sale of properties in execution of decrees and the granting of extension of the period of limitation for civil suits, will be workable.

Experience will show how we can make the new Land Mortgage Bank more useful. I have no doubt we will profit by experience and improve its working.

In your taluk, there is very little forest land available and most of what is available for paddy cultivation has been disafforested and thrown open for registry.

Your other suggestions will be considered.

38. Present condition of trade.

MR. R. BHAGAVATIPERUMAL CHETTIYAR (*Trading Classes, Kottar*) said that trade in the country had considerably declined and that the Government were not paying adequate attention for its development. The people too were not taking interest in trade and commercial activities. The educated people were averse to take to the profession. The above were some of the chief reasons for trade depression.

Travancore was purely an agricultural country and the majority of the people were agriculturists. But with the increase in population and the decrease in the yielding capacity of lands, the people found it difficult to get on with agriculture alone. The time had therefore come for the people to take to other profitable professions such as commerce and industry. But these were declining owing to economic depression. The banks and *hundi* merchants were not of much help to the traders. These were conducting *chitties* or doing the business of pawnbrokers. According to statistics there were 260 joint stock companies in the State doing banking and loan business. The average capital of each of these companies was about Rs. 20,000. It was difficult to imagine how with such small capital the companies could do banking business. With low capital and irregular customers several banks were not doing successful business and several of them were collapsing. The development of commerce and industry depended on the development of banking business for which capital was necessary. Formerly, there was flow of capital from British India but

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with the raising of loan by the Government of India at 6½ per cent. interest, foreign capital had ceased to flow into the State. Money should therefore be found from the State itself. The agriculturists were poor and money would be available for investment only with officers and those engaged in the professions, such as vakils. The member therefore held that if the salaries of officers be reduced even this source of help would be denied to the traders.

The export trade had practically stopped. There was no demand from outside for such articles as rubber, tea, *copra* and pepper nor could they be utilised locally. It was futile to raise products for which there was no demand. Attention should therefore be diverted for raising useful and profitable products. Travancore depended largely on imported rice and paddy from Burma. As these could be had in plenty, the price of local paddy had gone down and consequently, local paddy cultivators were put to much loss. They could not even pay the *kist* due. The only remedy for this state of affairs was to find out ways and means for producing sufficient quantity of paddy in the State itself for meeting local demand. Till then, arrangements should be made for having direct trade with foreign countries through the ports in the State.

The Government should make the necessary arrangements for investing all money available in temples, churches, etc., on trade and industry by granting loans to traders and industrialists on sufficient security and subject to suitable conditions. In order to bring the above suggestions into effect and develop commerce and industry in the State, a board or department of trade should be established.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Chettiyar, your suggestions will all be carefully considered.

The question of having a commercial section attached to the Department of Industries is important and the Director will report on that.

Your other suggestions will be considered along with the general question of economic depression when the Committee's report is taken up for consideration.

39. Needs of the traders of Trivandrum.

MR P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Trading Classes, Trivandrum*) said that additional facilities should be afforded to the merchants for unloading cargo at the Valiatura pier by the construction of at least three more godowns, and the provision of electric lights and electric lifts. The port limits should be enclosed either by masonry walls or by barbed wire fencing. The low portion on the southern side of the Port Office should be levelled up in order to prevent collection of rain water and consequent damage to goods.

The assessment of the income of merchants was made on no fixed basis or principle. The examination of the accounts should be done in the shops of the merchants themselves. The merchants were experiencing great hardships in taking their account books to the Income Tax

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